

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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WHITE HOUSE - INDERFURTH/WISE
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 044008

EXDIS, FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJECT: THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP

REF: MONROVIA 1190

1. WE APPRECIATED YOUR SUGGESTION AND WOULD LIKE YOU TO APPROACH THE LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT TO TELL THEM THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL VISIT LATIN AMERICA AND AFRICA LEAVING WASHINGTON ON MARCH 28 FOR VENEZUELA, BRAZIL AND NIGERIA. YOU SHOULD SAY THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD LIKE TO MEET PRESIDENT TOLBERT ON APRIL 3 BEFORE HE RETURNS TO WASHINGTON. THE PRESIDENT MUST BE IN WASHINGTON ON APRIL 3 BECAUSE THE CONGRESS RECONVENES FOR ITS SPRING SESSION THAT DAY AND THE PRESIDENT MUST BE HERE TO BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH PRESSING LEGISLATIVE MATTERS.

2. THE PRESIDENT LOOKS FORWARD TO MEETING PRESIDENT TOLBERT AND HAVING AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS
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WITH HIM ON THE MANY ISSUES WHICH FACE AFRICA AS WELL AS RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND LIBERIA. A STOP IN LIBERIA WILL SERVE TO UNDERLINE AND REENFORCE THE HISTORIC TIES THAT LINK THE UNITED STATES AND LIBERIA.

3. GIVEN THE PRESIDENT'S VERY TIGHT SCHEDULE AND THE LONG AND EXHAUSTIVE TRIP HE WOULD OF MADE WE PREFER TO

LIMIT THE STAY TO THE AIRPORT STOP YOU OUTLINE IN
OPTION 1. VISITING MONROVIA WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE AND
OPTION 3 WILL NOT WORK. IF THE LIBERIANS AGREE, YOU
SHOULD LET US KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT WE CAN
MAKE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE TRIP. YOU WILL BE
INFORMED SEPARATELY THE DATE OF THAT ANNOUNCEMENT.

4. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND PLANNING WE FORESEE THE
FOLLOWING SCHEDULE:

10:20 A.M. ARRIVE MONROVIA
11:30 A.M. MEETING WITH PRESIDENT TOLBERT AND WORKING
LUNCH AT ROBERTS FIELD.
2:00 P.M. DEPART MONROVIA.

5. WE HAVE NOT ESTABLISHED A DEFINITE DATE FOR A PRE-
ADVANCE REVIEW OF ALL STOPS BUT EXPECT TO DEPART
WASHINGTON FOR CARACAS (PROPOSED FIRST STOP) ON MARCH 12
OR 13 ARRIVING MONROVIA ABOUT 5 DAYS LATER. THE PRE-
ADVANCE WILL LOOK AT FACILITIES AT ROBERTS FIELD AND MAY
VISIT BENTOL. YOU SHOULD NOT INDICATE TO THE LIBERIAN
GOVERNMENT THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING BENTOL.

6. IN ADDITION TO PREADVANCE PARTY WE WOULD BRING (OR
ARRANGE TO ARRIVE BY COMMERCIAL AIR) LEAD ADVANCE PERSONS
WHO WOULD STAY ON IN MONROVIA TO HELP PREPARE FOR THE
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VISIT. THESE WOULD BE TOTAL OF 6-8 PERSONS FROM
PRESIDENTIAL ADVANCE OFFICE, WHITE HOUSE PRESS OFFICE,
WHITE HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS, U.S. SECRET SERVICE, STATE
DEPARTMENT SECURITY, STATE ADMINISTRATIVE ADVANCE.

7. REQUEST THAT BOTH PHOTOGRAPHS AND DIAGRAMS OF EVENT
SITES BE PREPARED FOR USE BY PRE-ADVANCE TEAM. DIAGRAMS
MAY BE SKETCHES AND SHOULD SHOW THE DETAILS OF THE
PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED MOVEMENTS. FOR EXAMPLE, AIRPORT
ARRIVAL SKETCH WOULD SHOW POSITIONS OF AIRCRAFT, GREETING
PARTY, POSITION FOR REMARKS, MOTORCADE FOR DEPARTURE, ETC.

8. THE PREADVANCE PARTY DOES NOT ANTICIPATE AN OVERNIGHT
STAY IN MONROVIA AT THIS POINT. WE ARE PLANNING AN
EARLY MORNING DEPARTURE FROM LAGOS AND AFTERNOON
DEPARTURE FROM MONROVIA FOR WASHINGTON.

9. IN ORDER TO PLAN FOR LUNCHEON AT ROBERTS FIELD
YOU SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY AND
PRESS MAY NUMBER BETWEEN 450 AND 500 PEOPLE. VANCE

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